



1-08-2007

To: **Members**

House Federal Relations, Energy and Telecommunications

From: Cliff Christian

Governmental Affairs director

American Heart Association

Subject: **Support for Enhanced 911**

HB 27

The American Heart Association is in strong support of all measures that will positively affect the time difference between the victim's accident and/or illness necessitating fast medical intervention. Between any incident and the first medical intervention, minutes matter. Fast medical intervention can mean full recovery. The absence of rapid intervention can have tragic consequences to the victim, the family and to society in general.

Cardiac arrest

- About 250,000 Americans die from out-of-hospital cardiac arrest each year.
- Approximately 50,000 lives could be saved each year if the chain of survival were performed unbroken.
- An automated external defibrillator (AED), a portable device that analyzes an abnormal heart rhythm and determines whether or not an electric shock is needed. This shock is the only way to revive a person who has suffered a cardiac arrest.
- The window of opportunity to save a cardiac arrest victim is short – each minute a person goes without defibrillation, chances of survival decrease by 8-10 percent. This gives only about 10 minutes for defibrillation to be effective. CPR can keep this window open longer, but only an electric shock can restart the heart.

Stroke

- Stroke is a medical emergency and must be treated as one.
- There is a treatment for people who have suffered an ischemic stroke that could reduce disability. Unfortunately, only about 5 percent of the patients who are eligible to receive the treatment arrive at the hospital within the three hour window in which it must be administered. On average, about 22 hours pass before a person who has suffered a stroke seeks medical help.
- Emergency medical system personnel must be trained to diagnose stroke and transport patients to the appropriate hospitals.